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PRESS RELEASE

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Isiah Land, age 61, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced yesterday in the U.S. District Court in Norfolk to 235 months in federal prison on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Because of his lengthy criminal history, he was sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal.

The federal charges initially arose out of an anonymous tip which led to Land's arrest on June 5, 2001, at a local motel where he was found with a loaded pistol and a single marihuana cigarette. The case was referred for federal prosecution under Project EXILE.

Project EXILE is a multi-agency joint federal and state task force targeting armed criminals for prosecution in federal court for possession or use of firearms in violation of federal laws. It is a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide effort by the Department of Justice aimed at reducing violent crimes. Under Project Exile a special task force of federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Virginia State Police, and the police departments of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach, focus on prosecuting violations of the federal firearms laws. Other federal agencies, such as Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation also contribute cases to Project Exile. Land's case was investigated by ATF and officers from the Virginia Beach Police Department, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe.